

PATENT APPLICATION



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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the following U.S. Application:

GROUP ART UNIT

2873 (Pending)

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the cited U.S. application is enclosed.

### REMARKS

US '028 and JP '277 are discussed on page 1 of the specification and may be relevant for the reasons noted therein.

US '675 and JP 6-289465 are discussed on page 2 of the specification and may be relevant for the reasons noted therein.

US '827 and JP 10-319465 are discussed on page 3 of the specification and may be relevant for the reasons noted therein.

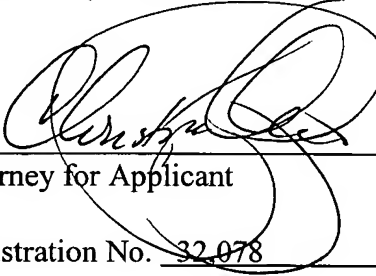
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

### FORMAL MATTERS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 32,078

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CPW/agn  
DC\_MAIN 92222 v 1

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>02975.000011</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/021,045</b>	
April 3, 2002		APPLICANT <b>KAZUHIRO NOGUCHI</b>		FILING DATE <b>December 19, 2001</b>	
GROUP <b>2877</b>					

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	5,117,246	05/1992	Takahashi et al.				
	5,602,675	02/1997	Okada				
	5,689,369	11/1997	Noguchi				
	5,932,984	08/1999	Murakami et al.				
	6,064,827	05/2000	Toyoda				
	6,112,028	08/2000	Okada				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR/ABSTRACT		
6-289465	10/1994	Japan			Abstract		
10-319465	12/1998	Japan			Abstract		
11-305277	11/1999	Japan			Abstract		

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

CPW/agm

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